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[Military vets press GOP on wind credit \(The Hill\)](#)

[Big Oil's tax breaks on table? \(POLITICO\)](#)

[US to sell Arctic land leases in November for oil, gas production \(Reuters\)](#)

[Coast Guard: Gulf oil slick comes from device used in 2010 spill \(Fuel Fix\)](#)

[Insight: U.S. taxpayers poised to subsidize Asian coal demand \(Reuters\)](#)

[A crackdown on solar panels threatens U.S.-China trade \(Washington Post Editorial Board\)](#)

[Shale boom derails U.S. investments in clean coal technology \(Reuters\)](#)

[Koch-Affiliated Group Campaigns To Make Wind Tax Credit 'So Toxic' Republicans Won't Back It \(ThinkProgress\)](#)

[GE to set US record in 2012 for wind turbine installations \(Recharge\)](#)

[GSA, Largest Tenant in US, Focuses on LED Lighting \(Greentech Media\)](#)

[SolarCity scores first utility deal, and why that's important \(GigaOm\)](#)

[California's Gas Price: Is There a Villain? \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)

[Inventor, solar innovator Stanford R. Ovshinsky dies at 89 \(Detroit News\)](#)

[US on course to notch record year of heat \(Canberra Times\)](#)

[How climate change disappeared from the debates \(Washington Post\)](#)

[The Greener the Economy, the Greater the Economy \(Huffington Post\)](#)

[Clinton: Rules of road needed to prevent Arctic 'catastrophe' \(The Hill\)](#)

[World 'not on track' for temperature target: UN \(Phys.org\)](#)

[Too late to stop global warming by cutting emissions? Scientists argue for adaption \(Science Daily\)](#)

[Feds: TransCanada shuts down Keystone pipeline for 3 days, tests show possible safety issues \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Oil-and-gas group questions EPA fracking study \(The Hill\)](#)

[Aging Pipeline Poses Threat to Great Lakes, Report Says \(New York Times\)](#)

[The bacon shortage, explained graphically \(Grist\)](#)

[That bugs: The latest news about antibiotics in meat \(Grist\)](#)

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[ATT95767 2.jpg](#)

[ATT91864 3.jpg](#)

Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition

October 19, 2012

<http://seec-israel.house.gov/>

Top news stories:

[Military vets press GOP on wind credit \(The Hill\)](#)

A group of military veterans pressed congressional Republicans on Thursday to renew a tax credit for the wind industry that their party's standard-bearer, Mitt Romney, has vowed to end.

[Big Oil's tax breaks on table? \(POLITICO\)](#)

One of Washington's most powerful business lobbies is afraid lawmakers might just do the unthinkable:

Take an ax to its billions in tax breaks. And this time, Republicans could help swing the blade.

US to sell Arctic land leases in November for oil, gas production (Reuters)

The Interior Department said Thursday it plans to offer up 4.5 million acres of Arctic land for oil and gas production next month, as the Obama administration's energy policies face more scrutiny ahead of the November elections.

Coast Guard: Gulf oil slick comes from device used in 2010 spill (Fuel Fix)

An undersea camera confirms that an oil slick discovered in the Gulf of Mexico came from a 100-ton device on the seafloor that BP had used several weeks after the 2010 oil spill in a failed attempt to cap its runaway Macondo well, the U.S. Coast Guard said Thursday.

Insight: U.S. taxpayers poised to subsidize Asian coal demand (Reuters)

Asian economies, hungry for coal, stand to gain from a U.S. program meant to keep domestic power cheap and abundant. At issue is how much miners pay the government to tap the coal-rich Powder River Basin in eastern Montana and Wyoming. Much of the basin is on federal land.

Energy news:

A crackdown on solar panels threatens U.S.-China trade (Washington Post Editorial Board)

Last week the Commerce Department finalized its plan to slap tariffs on Chinese solar panels. Commerce accuses Chinese manufacturers of accepting illegal subsidies and dumping products below cost on the U.S. market. Following the announcement, President Obama's allies applauded the administration's resolve to crack down on trade manipulators.

Shale boom derails U.S. investments in clean coal technology (Reuters)

Undercut by competition from cheap and cleaner-burning natural gas, analysts believe the expensive technology needed to make "clean coal" plants is unlikely to become commercialized in the United States without heavy government subsidies.

Koch-Affiliated Group Campaigns To Make Wind Tax Credit 'So Toxic' Republicans Won't Back It (ThinkProgress)

The wind energy industry faces a lame duck fight in the House of Representatives over extending the expiring production tax credit. The tax credit has broad bipartisan support, and considering that 81 percent of U.S. wind projects are installed in Republican districts, GOP lawmakers have a good reason to support it.

GE to set US record in 2012 for wind turbine installations (Recharge)

General Electric this year will set a company record for wind capacity installations in the US, breaking its previous high of 3.99GW in 2009, the most for any turbine vendor there in a calendar year, Matt Guyette, general manager strategy and market development at GE Wind and Solar, tells Recharge.

GSA, Largest Tenant in US, Focuses on LED Lighting (Greentech Media)

To meet those goals, and to push the whole market forward, the country's largest tenant launched the Green Proving Ground program to evaluate sustainable building technologies. Based on performance, the GSA can then recommend technologies to its portfolio.

SolarCity scores first utility deal, and why that's important (GigaOm)

SolarCity, which started as a residential solar installer and is planning a \$201 million IPO, has now jumped into building solar panel farms for utilities. The company announced on Thursday a deal to build a 14 MW project for Hawaiian utility Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative.

California's Gas Price: Is There a Villain? (Wall Street Journal)

Probably nothing more villainous than this: In the world of tight supply-chain management, if you live by "just in time," you on occasion will get hosed by "just in time." And that's the price Californians opted to pay, in part because they have goals beyond just access to cheap gas.

Inventor, solar innovator Stanford R. Ovshinsky dies at 89 (Detroit News)

Inventor and solar technology innovator Stanford R. Ovshinsky died Wednesday evening at the age of 89, but not until he had seen the commercial establishment of a technology revolution that he helped launch in his Detroit laboratory more than a half-century ago.

Climate news:

US on course to notch record year of heat (Canberra Times)

After a hot spring and a scorching summer, this winter is likely to continue a US warming trend that could make 2012 the hottest year since modern record-keeping began, US weather experts said Thursday.

How climate change disappeared from the debates (Washington Post)

During the town hall debate in 2008, an undecided voter in Nashville asked the two candidates: "[W]e saw that Congress moved pretty fast in the face of an economic crisis. I want to know what you would do within the first two years to make sure that Congress moves fast as far as environmental issues, like climate change and green jobs?"

The Greener the Economy, the Greater the Economy (Huffington Post)

There has been an ugly rumor floating around that sustainable energy is bad business. Witness the recent U.S. Presidential and Vice-Presidential debates in which Republican nominees Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan implied that over half the green companies receiving federal stimulus dollars have gone bankrupt. That's not likely. As the AP points out, the stimulus helped create both public- and private-sector jobs.

Clinton: Rules of road needed to prevent Arctic 'catastrophe' (The Hill)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Thursday that international collaboration will be vital as melting sea ice opens up new shipping and oil-and-gas drilling opportunities in the Arctic.

World 'not on track' for temperature target: UN (Phys.org)

Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, gives a press conference at the end of a UN climate conference in Bonn, western Germany, on May 25, 2012. Governments are "not on track" to achieve a target of keeping the average global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), Figueres said Thursday.

Too late to stop global warming by cutting emissions? Scientists argue for adaption (Science Daily)

Governments and institutions should focus on developing adaption policies to address and mitigate against the negative impact of global warming, rather than putting the emphasis on carbon trading and capping greenhouse-gas emissions, argue Johannesburg-based Wits University geoscientist Dr Jasper Knight and Dr Stephan Harrison from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom

Environment & Health news:

Feds: TransCanada shuts down Keystone pipeline for 3 days, tests show possible safety issues (Washington Post)

TransCanada Corp. has temporarily shut down its existing 2,100-mile Keystone pipeline after tests showed possible safety issues, a federal agency said Thursday.

Oil-and-gas group questions EPA fracking study (The Hill)

The American Petroleum Institute (API) warned Thursday that EPA's testing practices in Pavillion, Wyo., used too small a sample size to determine whether hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, contributed to groundwater contamination. The group said that could have far-reaching implications for EPA's national study on that linkage.

Aging Pipeline Poses Threat to Great Lakes, Report Says (New York Times)

A report released on Thursday by the National Wildlife Federation questions the safety of a network of oil pipelines operated by Enbridge that run through the Great Lakes region.

The bacon shortage, explained graphically (Grist)

You might've thought you were in the clear after last month's baconpocalypse scare, but you might be wrong. Sure, Britain's National Pig Association might have jumped the gun a bit in warning of a global bacon crisis, but that doesn't mean this summer's extreme drought isn't getting the better of the U.S. pig meat industry.

That bugs: The latest news about antibiotics in meat (Grist)

The debate over the use of antibiotics in farming might have finally hit the mainstream. This summer, ABC's World News Tonight investigated the link between antibiotic use in industrially farmed chicken and the growing scourge of antibiotic-resistant urinary tract infections in women.

\* indicates subscription required

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These news clips are intended to be informative and are provided as a courtesy to member offices of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and others. SEEC is a coalition of fifty-two Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives that was founded in January 2009 to be a focused, active, and effective coalition for advancing "policies that promote clean energy technology innovation and domestic manufacturing, develop renewable energy resources, and create green collar jobs throughout the product supply-chain, and policies to help arrest global warming and protect our nation's clean air, water and natural environment." SEEC is Co-Chaired by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Gerald Connolly (D-Va.). SEEC vice chairs are Reps. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Doris Matsui (D-CA.)

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